

PEACE NEWS

For War-Resistance and World-Community

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THREEPENCE

N.Z. TRANSPORT UNIONS

Solid against conscription

THE New Zealand Transport Workers' Federation at its biennial conference has declared, without any dissentient votes, opposition to peace-time conscription.

The Federation represents 41,974 affiliated workers in the transport industry, the following unions being represented at the conference: Drivers' Federation; Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants; Railway Tradesmen's Association; Water-side Workers' Union; Seamen's Union; Cooks' and Stewards' Union and Tramways Employees' Union.

Compulsory training and service were to be debated again at the recent conferences of the New Zealand Federation of Labour (to which practically all Unions are affiliated) and the New Zealand Labour Party.

BISHOP'S PEACE BROADCAST TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

The following is part of an Easter Day Message from the Bishop of Chichester to Russia, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Rumania and Albania, broadcast in the language of those countries by the BBC. It is reproduced from the Christian pacifist monthly, *Reconciliation*, who comment on its non-publication in this country.

"THE message of Easter is fundamentally simple. It bids us look up from a world torn with sorrow to the triumphant Christ.

"We are all conscious of division and conflict at the present time. But we have apparently forgotten that it was just this state of conflict which brought all the suffering before.

"The interests of East and West are at bottom the same—peace and justice to all, irrespective of class and nation. And justice to all means justice to the poor, the hungry and homeless. It is only through a whole-hearted world wide campaign to meet each other's needs that either East or West can in the end survive.

"I believe that the unification of the world must come. But to be healthy and fair, it must come through peaceful and voluntary means.

"How is it to be achieved? The unification of the world is a noble ideal. But if we make it our primary hope, we may fail by aiming too low. Easter bids us set our affection on things above, not on things below."

Helping Ernie Bevin, or CHASING A WORLD CITIZEN

From Harold S. Bidmead

BRUSSELS

AT 4.45 p.m. on Friday June 3 I learned that my Swedish friend Anders Clarin was imprisoned in the Petit Chateau in Brussels because he had torn up his passport in mid-air over the Channel, and had been sent back to Belgium by the British authorities.

As already reported in last week's Peace News, he had told them that he was only trying to make Mr. Bevin's vision of unimpeded foreign travel come true.

I immediately decided to go to Brussels and see for myself what all the fuss was about.

Ignoring Mr. Bevin's famous advice, I did not go down to Victoria Station and buy a ticket. In fact, once I was at the waterside I had no need to buy a ticket at all. We could all travel more freely if we had more friends!

A stranger assists

I arrived in Belgium the following evening. Belgian currency is not one of the things which Mr. Bevin's government issues along with his courteous request "to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance and to afford him every assistance . . . of which he may stand in need."

Rather than rely upon my passport, I therefore decided to use other means of appealing for assistance of which I stood in need.

The first Belgian (a Flamand and a stranger) to whom I explained my mission (to liberate a Swedish idealist who wanted to be a world citizen even before he had built his world city) bought my ticket as far as Ghent.

There I telephoned my friend Edgar Gevaert, and learnt that Clarin had been released at 2 p.m. on Friday owing to the efforts of a 19-year-old English boy, Ewan Cameron.

Cameron had spent 62 sleepless hours in

GROWTH OF BRITISH MILITARISM

M.P. warns against its increasing political dictatorship

"... If you are determined to be armed to the teeth you must obey the orders and directions of the generals who can control the great machinery of war. Elections are of minor importance . . . and back of that political policy is the constant pressure of men trained to arms, enormous bodies of disciplined men, wondering if they are ever going to be allowed to use their education and their skill and ravage some great people with the force of arms. That is the meaning of armaments. It is not merely the cost of it, though that is overwhelming but it is the spirit of it that matters."

THIS extract from a speech by a former American President, Woodrow Wilson, was quoted in the House of Commons last week when Rhys J. Davies, MP, intervened in the debate on the Auxiliary and Reserve Forces Bill to utter a warning against the increasing power of Britain's militarists.

The Bill makes it possible for the Government to call out the Territorials without a Proclamation of a State of Emergency, and, if necessary, to send them overseas once they have been called up.

Not an "innocent Bill"!

Rhys Davies said that he did not agree with those who thought it an unimportant Bill.

"It would not have come before Parliament at all if the military gentlemen behind the scene did not mean it to do something useful for the war machine. I have been here for a long time and I have seen innocently worded Bills like this introduced before."

Protesting at the inclusion of the words "without his consent" in the Bill, Rhys Davies denied the right of the State to determine what an individual shall do with himself. This Bill, coming on top of military conscription, fastened still more securely the military shackles upon the individual.

"According to the latest figures, we have now in the Fighting Services 784,900 men and women and 237,100



Rhys Davies, M.P.

civilians waiting upon them employed by the Service Departments.

"How does it come about that we can find any amount of money for these purposes but, when we raise the question of extending house-building or education, or new road construction, there is always a financial halt called?"

"In this Bill all we are told is that the Estimate of increased expense will be laid before Parliament in due course. If we were dealing with any other Department of State, we would be told almost to the last pound how much it would cost."

Replying to Lord Winterton's implication earlier in the debate that a pacifist could not be a patriot, Rhys Davies said that his pacifism was the basis of his patriotism—"because I have seen my country become absolutely bankrupt and hopelessly in debt all over the world as the result of being foolish enough to follow its military leaders into wars from time to time."

"I hope I have not said anything to damage my country, because I think well of our people and our institutions. I am, as I have stated, attacking the war spirit expressed in speeches in this House from time to time, four years after the greatest war in history.

As if preparing for another

"Even now there are hon. Gentlemen who talk as if they were preparing for another world war. The hon. and gallant Member for Barkston Ash (Colonel Ropner) said very frightening words for the military class when he suggested that the day had arrived when the Navy, the Army and the Air Force, except for a few aircraft, might be abolished. I wonder what was passing through the minds of the Ministers of the three Service Departments when he said that?"

"My last word is this. I hate the idea of war; I wish the nations spent as much time, energy and money on peace as they are spending on the rearmament programmes which are proceeding at a very rapid and ominous rate."

CHRISTIAN PACIFIST'S VOLUNTARY POVERTY

Some thought him a saint

PETER MAURIN, founder of the pacifist monthly, *The Catholic Worker*, died in New York last month.

Down in a Manhattan slum, thousands of those whose cause he had espoused were joined in their last tribute by representatives of Cardinals, wealthy Catholic orders and rich and poor laymen from distant parts of the USA.

Aristide Pierre Maurin, who during most of his life had never known a bed of his own nor clothes which had not been given to him, believed it to be the duty of a Christian leader to live in poverty.

He lived in poverty and was a Christian leader.

On the night before his funeral scores of Manhattan slum dwellers knelt near Peter Maurin's body to say a prayer.

"Many of them were sure he was a saint," says Time in a long tribute to the man whose "Strongly anti-capitalist and pacifist Catholic Worker sometimes makes the Communist Daily Worker look by comparison almost like a journal of reaction."

His uncompromising message

His aim, says Time, was to change modern society into one in which "it would be easier for people to be good."

His message was simple and uncompromising: capitalism, with its foundations in usury and its dehumanising of man by machines, is just as bad for mankind as socialism with its de-personalising State.

Participation in modern war he held to be always wrong—all Christians should be pacifists.

During the war, arteriosclerosis of the brain robbed Peter Maurin of the use of his mind and he lived out his remaining years on one of the nine community-run farms started by the Catholic Worker Movement in the USA.

Through his "Easy Essays" Peter Maurin made a valuable contribution to pacifist literature. The following is from "A Programme for Immediate Needs."

1. The best kind of apologetics is the kind of apologetics people do not have to apologize for.
2. In the first centuries of Christianity pagans said about Christians: "See how they love each other."
3. The love for God and neighbour was the characteristic of the first Christians.
4. This love was expressed through the daily practice of the Works of Mercy.
5. To feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to instruct the ignorant at a personal sacrifice was considered by the first Christian as the right thing to do.
6. Superfluous goods were considered to be superfluous, and therefore to be used to help the needy members of the Mystical Body.

BIGGEST CROWD WAS SYBIL MORRISON'S

SYBIL MORRISON drew the biggest crowd of any in Hyde Park on Whit Sunday evening. In an inspired indictment of war she held about five hundred people for nearly forty minutes without a single interruption; when the questions did come she was at her best as she scored points off the "official hecklers," drawing roars of laughter from the crowd yet taking infinite pains to make the pacifist point of view clear to sincere questioners, of which there were many.

This is the first of the regular Sunday meetings in the Park at 7 p.m.

A UNIQUE OCCASION

The attention of London readers is called to a forthcoming meeting of particular interest.

It will be held at St. Martin's School of Art, 109 Charing Cross Road (between Cambridge Circus and Foyles Bookshop) on Monday, June 20, at 7.30 p.m.

The subject is "The Menace of War and the Weakness of Christendom," and the speakers will be the well-known Anglican pacifist, the Ven. Percy Hartill, the Free Church Minister, the Rev. Alan Balding, and a Catholic priest, Father Gille, with the distinguished Friend, Lady Parmoor, in the chair.

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The Test Case

AS we go to press the Labour Party is conferring at Blackpool in an atmosphere of some anxiety.

Most pacifists tend somewhere towards the Left in politics. A Conservative pacifist, though not perhaps a sport of nature, is sufficient of a rare bird to arouse, when seen, some mild excitement among ornithologists.

It is therefore natural that the proposal to support pacifist candidates against Labour candidates at elections should be highly controversial.

No hard and fast principles can be laid down regarding any division of loyalties. In this case it is a purely personal question of balancing the immediate value of Labour's social programme against the urgency of the need to spread the arguments for disarmament in a critical world situation.

Some pacifists argue that a Tory foreign policy would be even worse than the present one, particularly with Churchill still around; and that whereas war is not a certainty, social reaction under Toryism is.

Against that is the view that Labour's social programme, as well as the advance of Socialism itself, are in any case jeopardised by a policy of arms expenditure to which no limit has been set or is likely to be.

It must be admitted that the Government has now subordinated social reform to military necessity. The demands of the generals, the admirals and air chiefs now have priority over the demands of the poor, the sick and the aged.

For all its good intentions the Government is now committed to an unlimited militarism, and this militarism over-rides Party distinctions. For so long as men believe that armed force is a nation's chief defence, the difference between Socialism and Toryism, or between any two political policies, will remain secondary and may at any moment become quite irrelevant.

Once committed to its use, you cannot compromise with armed force. It becomes your dictator, or nothing. Aldous Huxley says somewhere that there is no such thing as a 99 per cent. pacifist; in the same way there is no such thing as a 99 per cent. militarist.

We believe the observation of Woodrow Wilson, quoted by Rhys Davies in the House of Commons last week, to be an absolute political truth:

"If you are determined to be armed to the teeth. . . Elections are of minor importance."

There is another attitude towards divided loyalties which should be mentioned, for it is the test case in this issue. That is the attitude of the young Socialists who are now waiting to be made into criminals by a Socialist Government because they refuse to allow it to make them into professional killers.

They have no option. Their loyalty has been divided for them.

Maladjustments : internal and external

A Commentary by Roy Sherwood

THE man who dared to prophesy on the course of political events within the next few weeks would need a large dose of self-confidence.

The week just past has seen the steepest plunge for more than a year in New York Stock Exchange prices, with London following, though not quite so precipitately, because here it is merely a matter of slightly higher speed along the downward path first taken several months ago; Shanghai has been absorbed by the Communists; India and Pakistan reports say that their Governments have begun to realise that improvements in the social and economic conditions of their masses will have to be brought about quickly if a dangerous spread of Communism is to be averted; Paris statements make it plain that nothing easily recognisable as real progress has been made by the Big Four—we have to congratulate ourselves on the fact that so far there has been no complete deadlock; the state of the Berlin blockade defies accurate description: it is impossible to say to what extent it is still "on" and how much of it is "off."

At home, the Labour Party, facing the Blackpool Conference, is up against the veracity-testing task of forming and announcing its programme for the 1950 election, while the latest Gallup Survey shows a fall in the Prime Minister's popularity, and Sir Stafford Cripps remains in word as well as in deed too rigorously honest to trim his speeches and his policy to electioneering winds.

And to end up with, though it by no means exhausts the list of our perplexities, we have the imponderables of the Sunday Railway strike.

What should be discussed—and isn't

THE two factors all our problems have in common are poor adjustment to what anyone (who takes the trouble) can recognise as a transition stage in the world's history, and utter blindness to the real, as against the self-made dangers of our time. Sir John Boyd Orr's and Aldous Huxley's are two solitary voices calling for sense amidst a discordant gabble of futile politics. Soil erosion and the fantastic world-

wide flight away from food production, to manufacture more and still more mutually competitive consumer goods, should be the main things discussed between the Soviets and the West.

During the war, the realisation that any discussion of post-war aims would make the alliance fall to pieces produced one point of over-all agreement between the Soviets and the Westerners, bad in itself, yet the only one that could hold them together and serve the war effort at the same time: Unconditional surrender.

What the fear of a German victory did then, the danger of world starvation might do now. Of the two—Communism and Western Democracy—it is the latter that has more to fear from the prospect of a truly starving world. Communism may gain by it, but even if it does it will not be the kind sponsored and administered from Moscow.

The Kremlin, the White House and Downing Street are all equally unrealistic in their estimates of what matters most for the survival of the regimes.

Western differences

TO return to the specific: Sefton Delmer, one of the most experienced of the newspaper correspondents now in Paris, commenting on the new Russian attitude, writes:

It looks as though Vishinsky has been given orders to put over conciliation in order to disarm the West—perhaps, even to try to split them.

That looks like a shrewd guess; for, as Sefton Delmer proceeds to demonstrate, there are a number of things with regard to which the western unity is, like the Allied unity of the war, mainly a matter of holding a common front against someone else—in this case Russia.

As a first point there is America's relative indifference to the question of German unity and Mr. Bevin's great interest in it. That difference is due to Bevin's socialism and USA anti-socialism. In western Germany alone, the Socialists are in a minority. In united Germany, they would be in a majority. Whatever words may be used, there is therefore more keenness in Ernest Bevin's efforts to produce German unity than in Mr. Acheson's.

Next, there are difficulties arising out of Marshall Aid provisions. The Americans want the inter-European loans under the Plan to be convertible into dollars. They have to take that view because their manufacturers are forced to pay increasing attention to the export market, in order to keep their works going at full strength and avoid large-scale dismissals of labour. Sir Stafford Cripps, in Paris over the week-end when this is written, knows that he cannot afford convertibility.

World planning—or cut-throat competition

THESE differences of home-population-protecting urges are not likely to grow smaller. As we all get further away from the first terrific demand for goods following upon the cessation of the war, the instinct to cut each other's throats in business will steadily become fiercer.

It can be counteracted only by over-all planning—internally within each nation, and externally all over the world.

Where are there any signs of readiness to accept that, except among those sections of the world community—irrespective of what country they belong to—who are hoping for immediate benefits? (Immediate is the operative word of the question.)

The meaning of the strikes

FOR the moment, Soviet pressure on the West is being slackened because the pressure of related ideologies—or of the same ideology in purer form—is increasing of its own accord in the East.

Those in the West who really stand for what is best is our conception of democracy will do well to realise that the steady growth of unofficial strikes, started and extended against the recommendations of trade union executives, is a symbol of internal maladjustment to our transition period fully analogous to the external maladjustment that finds its expression in our time's international difficulties.

No amount of sympathy with the specific grievances of particular strikers can wipe out the fact that such strikes amount to an argument, by demonstration, against the form of democracy for which westerners stand.

ITALY'S "PICK-AND-SHOVEL" PEACEMAKERS

"LO SCI" (pronounced she) began in November of that year a dozen students, mostly from the faculty of medicine of Rome University, climbed on to an UNRRA truck. After six hours' drive across the Apennines to the Abruzzi, they climbed down outside the portal of Casa Cespa in the street of Giovanni Ceccario, Ortona-a-mare.

Ortona, badly damaged during the fierce battles of 1944, is a small port on the Adriatic. UNRRA sent a British IVSP team there in order to organise free transport of building materials (in UNRRA trucks) to devastated villages and farms in the surrounding countryside. During a visit to Rome, a member of that team spoke to Italian friends about international reconciliation through work camps. In collaboration with a sympathetic UNRRA official, he arranged for a small group of students to spend ten days working on rubble clearance in Francavilla, thirteen kilometres from Ortona.

TOWN HALL WAS SALVAGE

That group salvaged bricks and stone from the ruins of Francavilla's town hall. They had no very clear idea of what IVSP or SCI stood for. Some came out of sheer curiosity; others because the University was on strike, and studies at a standstill. Even the most enthusiastic must have wondered what these friendly British volunteers, usually clad in khaki and in complete administrative charge of thirty heavy trucks, really meant when they left their jeeps behind, put on overalls, stumbled through a few simple Italian phrases, and then proceeded to enjoy (apparently) the dirty, sweaty task of demolition. This was an entirely new technique—"officials" who rolled up their sleeves and suddenly became navvies.

But no one expected immediate, revolutionary results from such a simple, experimental beginning. In that hectic atmosphere with a handful of foreign volunteers trying to help hundreds of farmers and villagers haul bricks, tiles, sand, lime, etc., to ruined homes, there seemed little hope of sowing the seeds of true peace. Neither would twenty years of Fascist rule (or misrule) yield overnight a harvest of Utopian democrats.

In the bright, unromantic light of Mediterranean skies, however, some of those students realised the practical value of hard work for the cause of peace. From the original dozen, three returned to the

SERVIZIO CIVILE INTERNAZIONALE was officially recognised as the Italian branch of Service Civil International (International Voluntary Service for Peace) at the annual delegates meeting recently held at Bièvres, near Paris. Three Italians represented the new group, which is now ready to increase its characteristic contribution to "pick and shovel" peace-making.

Abruzzi the following summer to assist Don Guido Visendaz at a sea-side holiday camp for his boys' town. Another went northwards to the tiny village of Marciaso in the Apuan Alps above the marble quarries of Carrara, where American Friends Service Committee ran a small work camp between July and September.

Since then AFSC and SCI have collaborated very closely with Italians in organising work camps where they were most needed. And, what is more important, Italians gradually came into the movement, worked alongside British, American, Swiss, and French volunteers, until they were able to assume full responsibility for the organisation of camps, raising funds, and sending Italian work-campers to projects in other countries.

EASING INTERNAL CONFLICTS

Inside Italy itself, too, Servizio Civile Internazionale will find plenty to do. Regional differences are much more exaggerated than in Britain, and it is very encouraging to note that Sicilians and Abruzzesi volunteers, for example, may now find themselves handling a shovel beside men and women from the northern cities of Milan, Turin, Genoa and Venice.

The problem of how to define their attitude towards conscription is perhaps the principal preoccupation of members of "lo SCI." At their second annual general meeting held in Florence early this year, two main lines of thought emerged.

The first expressed deep concern for the extension of education for peace in Italy by means of newspaper articles, documentary films of practical work in camps, and discussions in community centres or clubs.

The second trend was towards the es-

tablishment of a stronger work camp movement—that is to say, the reinforcement morally and materially of SCI in Italy—before attempting such a formidable task as peace education on a large scale. The majority of members seemed to feel that "lo SCI" ought not to try to run before it has learned to walk.

POST-FASCIST ITALY

This summer Italian friends hope to run at least one, and possibly two work camps. One will be in the Abruzzi, the other in Sicily or Sardinia. British volunteers going to either of those schemes will be able to judge post-fascist Italy for themselves. But in "lo SCI" they will find a sensitive, enquiring spirit, tempered by a strong sense of the past, together with a genuine desire to see that the olive branch of peace, already firmly planted during the past four years, develops slowly but surely into a hardy, fruitful tree.

C.B.V.

CHEERS FROM THE ATS

AS a military parade wound its way through the silent lines of onlookers in North London last Sunday there was a sudden outburst of cheering.

It came from a lorry load of ATS who were taking part in the parade.

Rounding a bend in the road they found themselves face to face with an ex-conchie Peace News seller and his poster, "War We Say No."

You may not always be cheered if you take up street-selling—one of the best ways of spreading the message which Peace News carries—and it would be rash to presume that the words of the old song have now been altered to "all the nice ATS love a conchie." But you will find a great deal of encouragement from friendly remarks made by people walking by.

People want Peace News today. Will you make sure that they continue to get it either by street-selling or contributing to the Forward Fund which makes the paper's existence possible?

Contributions since May 27: £16 15s. 11d. Total for 1949: £262 17s. 9d.

THE EDITOR

Please make cheques, etc., payable to Peace News, Ltd., and address them to the Accountant, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4.

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Lessons learnt under Occupation

by

Hagbard Jonassen

IT is difficult for people who have not experienced an occupation to realise what it means. Even for those of us who have been through it, today it seems unreal. I will therefore try briefly, to give you something of its atmosphere.

On April 9, 1940, the majority of the Danish people supported the Government's decision not to fight the Germans. The German demonstration of force was so overwhelming that sober realism caused them to see that war was impossible—not because they were pacifists but because there was nothing else to do.

The Government, together with members of all parties except Communists, saw its duty as standing between the Germans and the Danish people so as to save as much as possible. It never sanctioned the occupation, but compromise was often necessary to prevent greater evils.

Spying spreads distrust

But the Government could never explain the different changing situations to us. Press and radio were controlled; meetings were spied upon by Danes used by the Germans. Even in private meetings you could never be sure. In streets and public vehicles, the Germans employed people to listen and report. Consequently, distrust grew among the people and confidence in the Government declined.

The small groups who disagreed with the Government's policy got increasing support, particularly from young people, and the military resistance was supported by British propaganda, for at least 95 per cent. of the Danes were pro-British. The resistance movement was organised, with weapons and ammunition from Britain, and sabotage began.

The Government opposed sabotage, believing it would easily bring fresh dangers. The majority of Danes also opposed it, because it destroyed Danish factories and railways and gave further excuses for German action. And gradually German action against the resistance did become increasingly bestial; at the same time it was clear they could not win the war.

These facts together with the resignation of the Government in 1943, strengthened the resistance movement; its leaders were regarded by many as the real government. During the last months when we had no police, there was a succession of crimes, including murders, and none could tell who had committed them, or whether they were assassinations of traitors or German reprisals.

Difficult position of pacifists

This was the atmosphere in which pacifists had to work. What did we learn?

First, regarding the occupying forces: It was childish to believe the Germans could be won by kindness and persuaded to withdraw through consciousness of doing something wrong. The ordinary German soldier behaved well; he was polite and helpful in public. He would give his seat to older people—and five minutes later he would kill them if ordered to do so. That's a soldier: he will obey orders.

We believed that the Germans should be given to understand that they were not

one of Denmark's leading pacifists; a member of the International Council of the War Resisters' International and leader of the Danish War Resisters' Movement, Aldrig mere Krig.

Prior to the occupation of Denmark, the Movement had been active in helping Jews and other refugees from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia. On April 9, 1940 all correspondence relating to these activities was burned and a list of names and addresses carefully hidden so that a subsequent raid on their head office proved abortive.

The monthly paper of the Danish section of the WRI, bearing the symbol of the International, a broken rifle, was published regularly throughout the war. It included, among other things, an article against the German treatment of the Danish Jews, and another telling of the fight in Norway in the Church and schools—translated from prohibited Swedish papers.

At the end of the war Hagbard Jonassen wrote a report which was published in this country by the WRI under the title "Resistance in Denmark." The article now being published in two parts is based on his report to the first post-war international conference of the WRI held at Shrewsbury last August.

wanted, and that the best way to do that was to ignore them completely.

For the Germans, force was something very ceremonious. When they walked in pairs through the streets, with machine guns ready to terrify us, they looked as if they were going to church. We could not take them seriously, and people continually laughed at them.

By maintaining a calm and correct attitude the Danish authorities generally succeeded in avoiding violent action by the Germans. German generals found staying in Denmark pleasant, and many were willing to hold out a hand to the Government; for that reason they were repeatedly replaced.

But what was our relation as pacifists, to our own countrymen?

We were in a difficult position. Fanaticism was growing with the military resistance; there was a tendency to regard as traitors those who would not join it. We stood between the Germans and the resistance movement, without hope of influencing either.

Resistance fosters belief in violence

Growing military resistance created gradual confidence in and admiration for violent methods: there was an increasing mentality of violence from which we still suffer.

Respect for law and order was weakened; with the result that we now have retrospective laws by which people can be punished for actions that were legal at the time they were committed—even for ac-

tions which were the direct result of the Government's policy. The death penalty has been re-introduced.

Parliament did not really want these laws, which were prepared by the resistance movement and passed immediately after the war, but Parliament was not strong enough to act against the armed resistance plus public sentiment, which wanted all who had supported the Germans heavily punished. The increasing brutality of the Germans fostered this sentiment.

The military resistance was undoubtedly one reason for this growing German brutality, and I believe it right to say that the strong Danish desire after the war for vengeance rather than justice for traitors was the result of military resistance.

A major problem during occupation is how to maintain national unity. The enemy controls all sources of information, so can sow distrust and disintegration. It is therefore important to have a good illegal Press. Ours was not good; it concentrated on propaganda and created hatred.

(To be concluded)

SUBTLE WAR TAXES

BICYCLES made in India cannot compete with those made in Britain because the latter are by-products of the British armament industry in peace. By using British bicycles we are supporting British war preparedness.

Similarly in our new budget we have an unseen military subsidy. It has been stated that with the exception of one company, all airways concerns were working at a loss. The passenger aeroplanes of today will be the bombers of tomorrow. So our war preparedness demands that we maintain the machines, pilots and the ground crew in trim condition whether passenger traffic pays its way or not. So the Government has to subsidise it without swelling "Military" budget provision. What is simpler than increasing postage rates and paying mail subsidies and pretending that all letters can be sent by air? These high postal rates are in effect a war tax and a payment for war preparedness will-nilly.

—Dr. J. C. Kumarappa, Secretary, All-India Village Industries Association.

LIFE IN ABUNDANCE

TWO incidents stand out in my life which have never ceased to cheer me in the dark days of doubt and uncertainty.

Both of them happened on a particular blast furnace at which I worked. Blast furnace work is mechanised today, but these were the days of hand moulding of which I speak. The work was laborious and needed to be fairly expert in the way all pre-mechanised processes were expert; one had also to be as strong as an ox and as nimble as a flea.

The difference between pre-mechanised work and the technical work of today is so distinctly patent to those who have experienced both, that it can scarcely compare at all. One requires two languages almost.

But we were glad to be there, for times were bad and jobs were rare.

The real snag was the fatality rate.

A blast furnace works for so long—three years was the maximum for this furnace—after which they are pulled down and rebuilt, the brickwork in which the ore is melted finally breaks up and a new lining has to go in. This particular furnace always managed to kill and burn a few people each time it was rebuilt. It almost became a kind of evil spirit, so that fatalities were expected of it.

There is nothing quite like the inevitability of death to breed death. Anyone can imagine that where a reputation for death is established, there will death be found. It is almost as if death begets death. I think it does. I think that mankind is capable of creating a destiny for itself, a destiny in which life wins through in spite of everything else, or a destiny in which death is triumphant. And man himself can mould whichever way he chooses to go. At a decisive moment, one man on the side of life can lift himself and others above the inexorability of fate, or he can perhaps more easily lead men to the doom of death.

The climate of our blast furnace atmos-

phere became one in which it was difficult to maintain a simple day to day courage, for the physical effort alone took all we had, while the heat, the extremes of weather, exposed as we were, together with the dread of accident and sudden death, required a heroic spirit few of us possessed.

The incident I set out to describe happened on a day when we were all of us a bit sick and apprehensive. Two of our mates had been burnt to death and several others severely burnt, and the odour of burnt flesh and smouldering rags were

by

Joe Watson

The writer, a founder member of the Frating Hall Community, whose recent article "Prayers for Bodge" was so greatly appreciated, here again stresses our common debt to "the common man."

still overpowering. The furnace was behaving in the most devilish fashion. The ore and coke would become lodged in the upper part of the structure, and half melted slag and iron oozed out of its very joints. The situation gave us much extra work with much less pay, and our mates were as yet unburies. We sat eating our food in a very dispirited manner, and I felt suddenly overcome, and would have liked nothing better than to run away and never come back. I said to my neighbour, "I suppose it will get us all in the end."

"I've been on her four times," he said, "And each time I have seen her go out. I will see her out again."

You can put it down as egotism. As vainglory and boasting. But I knew then that I too would see her go out, and I did, not once, but three times after that. And though I knew my time might come the same as the time had come for other comrades, I knew that it need not come for any of us, that one touch of life-courage had given us the strength to go on. That was twenty years ago, and I still need to be reminded of it, in order to be faithful to it.

§

The next incident occurred in the beginning of the last war. Our air losses were severe at the time, and the daily news was as dismal as news can be. We were sitting in a cabin for breakfast, when a young perky little soul came in and cheerfully announced that he had volunteered as a rear gunner. There was a grim kind of silence, then a burst of good-natured oaths and obscenities, that one should be so daft as to commit certain suicide. Barney, his name was. Barney replied: "But I'm alive now, aren't I. If I'm alive now, who is to say they'll get me?"

I have heard some brave utterances in my time, not least from the great minds of the world. I have heard people talk who were paid to persuade, and paid to pontificate. But I have never seen or experienced a load move away from men's minds so easily.

Life in abundance flows from sources such as these, for such simple souls are not so much the stuff that heroes are made of, but the fabric out of which life itself is patterned and formed. We all of us need to be reminded that it is never the great ones of the earth which tap for us new sources of power, for many of us never contact the great ones in high places. But our hope is on the ordinary fellow, who in a decisive moment can lead us away from death. He it is who is truly great, a life-giver.

But I must say that either of the two men cited would pass unnoticed in a crowd, and would be highly amused if you told them of the regard they won from me.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Marriage Crisis, by David Mace. Demy 8vo. 142 pp. paper bound. (Delisle, 5s.)

THE author, who is secretary of the Marriage Guidance Council, believes that marriage and the family, as historically conceived, had their basis in a pastoral and agricultural order of society. Since what is popularly called the Industrial Revolution they have been collapsing, and in the Age of Inventions, after two world wars, a crisis has been reached which is almost terrifying in its bigness. "An atomic war," he writes, "would mean swift and terrible destruction. The failure of the family would mean slow but sinister disintegration. The end result in either case would be very much the same."

He thinks that it is impossible to return to the old order, and undesirable too, for "today we have the biggest chance in the whole of human history to make family life what it was meant to be."

Although the chatty style in which the book is written may irritate some readers, the arguments are cogently stated and the issues involved discussed with wide knowledge and keen perception.

PERIODICALS

PPU Journal, June 1949. Demy 8vo. 20 pp (London: Peace Pledge Union 4d.)

This issue contains a full report of the 1949 PPU Annual General Meeting, the text of the address by the new Chairman, Vera Brittain, and a thoughtful valedictory message from George M. L. Davies.

Asian Horizon, Spring 1949. Ryl. 8vo. 88 pp. viii illus. (London: Chaudhuri, 32 Victoria Street, 3s. 6d.)

Most of the contributors to this review

of Asian affairs are native to the countries about which they write. As might be expected, they display knowledge and insight which very few Europeans could have, but there are some disadvantages. Their literary quality is indifferent and sometimes tedious, and they are inclined to be strongly partisan in political matters—usually well to the Left. The illustrated article in this issue deals capably with Viet-Nam.

Contemporary Issues, Spring 1949. Demy 8vo. 88 pp. and cover. (London: Contemporary Press, 1s.)

The third issue of this democratically-minded British and American review contains articles, some of which are dreadfully indigestible, on racialism in South Africa, Whitehead's philosophy, the American motor industry, soil erosion, and current resistance to the occupation forces in Germany. This last is particularly interesting.

Vistas, No. 2. Demy 8vo. 20 pp. (Taunton: Donald Mullins, 2s. 6d.)

This intimate and very readable review of literature and philosophy is expensive at three-halfpence a page, but not an inch of space is wasted, and the quality of its contributions is consistently high.

REPORTS

Friends Service Council Annual Report 1948-9. Demy 8vo 32 pp. and cover, viii illus. (London: Society of Friends, free)

AS "buttons" with "bows," so to millions of war-stricken people through-

out the world "Relief" goes with "Quaker." This well-produced report, however, emphasises that the work of the Council "has always been to further the carrying of the message of Jesus Christ and to bear witness to His power to bring wholeness to the life of men. And it contains details of missionary work in various parts of the world, and of Friends' Centres, as well as of relief and service in China, India, Europe and Palestine and the year's accounts.

What Happened at Wroclaw, by Ivor Montagu. Demy 8vo. 28pp. and cover, viii illus. (London: British Cultural Committee for Peace, 1s.)

This is intended to be an impartial outline of what happened at the World Conference of Intellectuals for Peace held at Wroclaw in August 1948, but, as far as one who was not present can judge, it leans rather to the East.

The weaknesses of the conference seem to have been that few "right-wing" intellectuals attended—this was not the organisers' fault, they invited them, but nevertheless it decreased its value—and the way in which it was conducted.

Those who went acted as "national delegations" although they were in fact there as individuals neither delegated by, nor representative of, anybody; and instead of trying to inform themselves and to make arrangements for working together, they wrangled about a resolution which, like most such, is platitudinous and (in English at least) notable for the number of clichés it contains.

READER'S PAGE

Go on with the enquiry

I WELCOMED the letter from Leslie Smith, the National Peace Council Director, in which he referred to the Council's Oxford Conference.

I believe that his closing reference to my letter is meant simply as an endorsement of what I wrote, but in case any readers thought he was challenging some contention of mine, may I come back to the subject? I do so because I seek a fresh opportunity to underline the importance of what Leslie Smith says and the absolute necessity to continue the enquiry which was meant to be the subject of the NPC Conference.

I hope I may describe myself as a propagandist, and I certainly do not mean to belittle the methods of public action when I reiterate that propaganda alone is not enough.

Economic difficulties and political wrongs may be the occasion of war, but the causes of war lie deep in the human heart, and it follows that we must do all we can to create the conditions for peace. Whilst that can and should be done on the public level it must at the same time be done on the level of individual life and effort. The fears and passions in our own hearts are in the hearts of Messrs. Bevin, Molotov and the rest.

It is so easy to criticise these and other statesmen for truculence and intransigence at conferences. It is so easy to call for the surrender of "national sovereignty," but how hard to surrender our own personal privileges—and how often have we heard somebody in committee of council or conference refusing to budge an inch!

This is not to say that only the perfect instrument of peace is entitled to refrain from war. But it is to say that, while much can be done now by conscientious objection and by propaganda the conditions of permanent peace can be attained only by men and women of peace.

We will go on wasting coal with our open fires; and conscription violates the youngsters who have to get it for us. We will insist on rice as a luxury and take it away from those to whom it is a staple food.

We will go on treating the children with intimidation, the criminals with the violence of punishment and execution, our debtors

The Oxford Conference — Non-violence and Pacifism — Labour Party and Peace — Pen friendships — Jehovah's Witnesses are discussed

with the threatening letter and intimidatory processes of law. And so on: the list of human activities which should at least be questioned is endless.

How much of it has to be cleared away to make for the true peace, it is imperative to discover. I hope the NPC—and PN—will go on with the enquiry.

ROGER PAGE

Orpington, Kent.

Satyagraha

WITHOUT thinking in terms of joining issues with you regarding the leading article in Peace News (11.3.1949) I would like to point out a few things in the interest of non-violence and pacifism.

1. Aldous Huxley seems to be a defeatist if what you have quoted is his judgment on Gandhi. He seems to have forgotten what he wrote in "Ends and Means," where he advocates the organisation of society based on non-violence as the only remedy against the violence and evil that is enveloping us. Gandhi's whole life was an attempt to organise non-violence.
2. Gandhi is an outstanding instance whose faith in non-violence never faltered. It might be that his followers had not the same faith. But an army does not always have the same faith or the same amount of it as the General. It is enough if it follows the General faithfully. That Gandhi's followers did to a large extent and the success was entirely due to it.
3. It is want of faith in the forces of non-violence to say that it was entirely due to the kind of Government that existed in South Africa and India that made Gandhi's work possible. The same can be said of Christ and other pacifists.
4. The basic question is whether good and morality can succeed without the help of violence or not, can it succeed only with the help of non-violence or not? Gandhi's replies "Yes." No success is worth having if it is bought by violence. That is what he taught and what he lived for and died for.

R. R. DIWAKAR

5 Safdarjang Road,
New Delhi.

Alcohol and tobacco

I HOPE it is not necessary to point out that those who don't drink or smoke are not associated with "drabness, dowdiness, self-mortification and a generally sour interior and exterior!"

In all seriousness, there is at least one reason why teetotalitarianism and non-smoking are associated with pacifism, without considering any moral or health issue. It must be obvious that one of the contributory causes of war is economic; that the necessity to bring tobacco from abroad lays a burden on the community and worse; that food is in very short supply and that to turn good grain into alcohol is surely almost a crime in the world today.

I travelled from Buenos Aires to France in 1946 on a cargo ship carrying maize corn—to feed starving Europe? Oh no—to be distilled into alcohol: to turn nourishing food into a valueless drink.

If the world had money to burn and the world's belly was full let those who want to, drink—but these things are not so.

M. DAVIS

Mill House,
Girvan.

One up for women

SEVERAL PPU members know that I am an anti-feminist. Nevertheless, my prize for letters last month goes to two women—Sylvia Lloyd and Lena Roberts. And I hope this will not be regarded as masculine egotism, etc., etc.

W. A. GREATWOOD

Denmark Hill Garage,
Grove Lane, S.E.5.

"A word for Nazis"

SYLVIA LLOYD writes to point out an omission from her letter in May 27 issue. The sentence we omitted was—"I prefer to use the word 'Nazis' only of the real criminals and gangsters of the Party."

The omission, she thinks, may cause misunderstanding and even offence to German readers. She wanted to make it quite clear that she was "well aware of the criminal elements in the Nazi Party."

Space for the non-pacifist

THE main function of Peace News is surely to canalise, inspire and encourage those forces which make for peace, but in its desire for integrity and its understandable desire to face all the facts against the pacifist's way of life, it has tended in the last few years to be dismal and discouraging. True, the pacifist does not want to see the world through rose-tinted spectacles, but are not the spiritual forces

of love and brotherhood as real as the atom bomb and ultimately more powerful.

Right is right and evil is evil and no amount of ifs and buts can alter this simple fact. We pacifists believe that it is wrong to kill, therefore we just don't do it.

In my opinion, the bulk of Peace News should be reserved for those individuals and societies who are applying the basic principles of our faith to personal, national and international lives, also a section to those who do not share our conviction giving the rest of us the opportunity of trying to answer these doubters.

WALTER SIMPSON

170 Chapman Street,
Gorton, Manchester, 18.

Christian way to peace

CONTINUE to emphasise the idea of world government based on the right of the individual to make his choice in matters of politics.

The world needs very sadly a small group of men who will witness for Christ whatever the circumstances may be. Nothing will produce the world we want unless we, like the early Christians, are prepared to take up the challenge.

I gather Peace News is also a witness for Christ and this is my reason for mentioning religion. There can be no peace unless we try to penetrate the hearts of leading men by the power of Christ's love.

HENRY KENNEDY

22 Chalmers Street,
Edinburgh, 3.

Why some don't vote

A WRITER in PN recently suggested that voters who refrained from voting in County Council elections stayed "churlishly" at home because of the Budget.

There is, however, a much deeper motive with many for this unfortunate position. Local politics have become Party politics whether we like it or not. And this Government has pledged itself to war, if and when any of its Pact associates are attacked. The fact that they themselves will decide what constitutes an act of aggression only worsens the matter. The fact remains they are pledged to war and have offered our young men's lives.

Therefore a true pacifist cannot support the Government. No doubt the Labour Party have done much good, but all may be swept away overnight by their inability to keep out of war. Until there is a true pacifist group I will not support any Party. I consider I have a right to be a "conscientious objector" to voting if I do not agree with any candidate.

DOROTHIE M. WYATT

7 Plantation Road,
Chippenham, Wilts.

Workers unite for peace

REGARDING Mr. Atherton's letter "Workers unite for peace." As a supporter of the Labour Party and also a reader of Peace News, I prefer to work for progress and better conditions. I agree wars are useless, but I doubt if you would get any nearer to stopping them by opposing the Labour Party.

The only practical thing is to organise world opinion against war. If you are going to encourage umpteen different parties, nobody will be responsible for getting things done and you couldn't fix the blame. The result would be confusion, without leadership, and that is the surest step towards distrust and war.

T. H. WILCOX

51 India Road,
Gloucester.

Over to Chubu Nippon Shimbun

SO many pacifists lead themselves down side-tracks, when the true aim of pacifism should be to prevent war. However worthy such schemes as refusal to pay income-tax, contesting election seats, abolishing fox-hunting, plus the spate of inter-pacifist bickering, they are a waste of mind, energy, time and money.

Let us influence others to become pacifists, and above all, let us co-operate with sympathisers in other countries.

In the latter respect you may be interested to know that a Japanese student whose name and address were given me by the WRI, was so overjoyed to receive a letter from an Englishman that he immediately sent it to the "Chubu Nippon Shimbun," which published part of it. This brought me a further letter from another unknown Japanese, which shows how eager people in other lands are to grasp a friendly hand so seldom offered.

JACK A. LOVEDAY

5 Gordon Road,
Melton Constable, Norfolk.

Readers are reminded that letters, which should be written on one side of the paper only if possible, are most welcome when their length does not exceed 250 words.

Jehovah's Witnesses

WE are very interested to read the report in your issue of May 20 concerning the Greek CO's.

For your information, we have received a reply from the Minister of Security, K. Rentes, to a letter that we wrote calling for relief. The letter seeks to justify the action taken and it is altogether unsatisfactory since it claims that we are wrongly informed on several points.

Yesterday we received word that another Jehovah's Witness, Georges Paleologos, was sentenced to death at a Corinth Court Martial.

International Bible Students Association,
34 Craven Terrace,
London, W.2.

Not COs

WHILE every effort should be made to release those imprisoned because of their views, care should be taken to prevent confusion in the public mind by referring to Jehovah's Witnesses as conscientious objectors.

They are not CO's, in the sense in which the term is commonly understood, still less are they pacifists. They expect an Armageddon in which the Saviour will lead them in a bloody slaughter of those who are not Christian. They have, therefore, no objection to killing as such, neither have they renounced violence as a method.

The JW's objection to war, although he is religious, is really much the same as those political objectors who would fight in some wars and not in others. This should be made clear, as we pacifists have little in common with the JW's although we insist on their right to follow their consciences.

JACK SUTHERLAND

152 Camberwell Road, S.E.5.

Too many spectacles

ROY SHERWOOD refers in your issue of May 20, to people who apply under the National Health Service for more spectacles than they need.

He seems to have a false idea of the service.

If a patient has a duplicate prescription, that is a private transaction and one pair has to be paid for. If a person has distance and reading prescriptions (or in rare cases three prescriptions) it is because the practitioner considers them necessary.

It is conceivable that a person might have one pair of spectacles from a hospital and one from an optician, or one in Scotland and one in England, but he could not get more than one pair for the same purpose under the Supplementary scheme as careful records are kept.

The real cause of the delay in the supply of spectacles is that the Minister of Health did not realise how much unsatisfied need for eye-care existed and so gave the manufacturers no opportunity to prepare for the increased demand.

KENNETH E. G. AKERS

73 Plum Lane, S. E. 18.

From Holland

OUR organisation aims at promoting international friendship. It is obvious that for this end correspondence with the youth of different countries is of great importance.

As other occupied countries we have been almost entirely secluded from the rest of the world during this war and you understand that many of our members are keen on correspondence abroad. This is why you receive this letter now.

Are you acquainted with any young people between the ages of 17 and 30 who are willing to correspond with the youth of the Netherlands in the English or French language? You would oblige us very much by sending us their addresses.

BEN STEEMERS (Sec.)

Friendship Society,
P.O. Box 37,
Zutphen, Netherlands.

Esperanto in the schools

IN my opinion one of the first steps towards the lasting peace we all desire is the teaching of Esperanto and the various ways and means of promoting goodwill and understanding in the schools of the world.

Esperanto is easy to learn: let Britain show the way by devoting a few hours of schooltime each week to the teaching of these important subjects.

The barrier of language must be broken down. Now is the time to begin the task.

J. GRANVILLE MARSH

64 Beach Road,
Litherland, Liverpool, 21.

RIDER'S Review

(Incorporating the "Occult Review," Est. 1905)

Edited by: DERRICKE RIDGWAY

"Carriers"

AN ESSAY ON THE CAUSES OF WAR

by

LORD DUNSANY

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IRENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS
Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., W.C1

This school trains World Citizens

AN American school, in Verde Valley, Arizona, which has the teaching of world citizenship as the major aim of its curriculum, has just completed its first year.

It has been established on non-profit principles and is for boys and girls from 10 to 15 years of age.

Dedicated to the promotion of international understanding, the school is based on a belief that children must be trained for global living while their minds are still flexible. The school has a skilled teaching staff, and has availed itself of advice from hundreds of well-known educators in the United States and foreign countries.

Hamilton Warren, founder and executive director, is convinced that by learning to live and think as world citizens, pupils can fit themselves to help the world towards peace. The training is on a college preparatory level, and meets the usual academic standards, but is not limited to conventional methods. One emphasis is on foreign languages; Spanish is required, and by practical and interesting methods of work for five months the students can converse easily with nearby Mexicans and Indians.

With the Red Indians

On field trips, taken in trucks especially prepared for study and camping out, the pupils have travelled several thousand miles during the school's initial year. They have visited Hopi and Navajo reservations, inquiring into the lives of the people, their social customs and economic problems. Such visits have been kept on a level of equality and friendliness. In lieu of a spring vacation, the school decided to make a long trek into northern Mexico, visiting rural communities. "To get an insight into Latin American culture." Altogether, ten such field projects have been carried out already.

Starting with 20 boys and girls from ten states and one foreign country, the school expects to accommodate 50 pupils next year, and is eager to receive students of high intellectual calibre from the United States and abroad.—*Worldover Press*.

AMERICAN CO CALLS FOR PEACE ARMY

JULIAN GRIGGS, of Elgin, Illinois, USA, a World War II CO has asked for 10,000 volunteers to work in 500 United Nations projects over the world to turn back the tides of war and raise the hopes for world peace.

Griggs declares that the peace forces must attract red-blooded young men to deeds of goodwill if the growing ranks of nationalist armies are to be halted.

He describes his plan to *The Reporter*, the US pacifist monthly, in the words of a group of World War II ex-service men who last year suggested volunteers to "work with people of all nations to fight international enemies like disease and starvation; build international roads, power projects; construct soil conservation and flood prevention projects; provide emergency disaster services."

FAREWELL TO DEFENCE

"DURING the Boer War, which I can remember, I felt perfectly safe in this country, but in 1914 to 1918 things were vastly different, and in the last war every man, woman and child, civilian or soldier, was just as much in the front line as a young soldier."

"That is what is happening in the world today. We are organising, building up armaments and arms, but in the final result the people whom all this is to defend are in greater danger than they have ever been in before. We ought to realise that the proposals which we are making and advocating are, in the final analysis, not going to defend the people of this or any other country from the result of a war which will be even more terrible—and there is no denial of this in any section of the community."

I suggest that, whatever the wickednesses of Russia may be—and for all I know they may be many—and whatever the sins of the United States of America—and they may have none—we know that the methods being pursued by this country and by those countries to defend the helpless are bound to fail. . . the lines on which we are working at present are bound to lead to death and destruction."

—Tom Braddock, MP, Army Estimates Debate, House of Commons, Mar. 10, 1949.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON PEACE GROUP FORMED

THE newly-formed South-West London Peace Group, which unites Peace Pledge Union members in Chelsea Kensington, Fulham and other SW London boroughs, is issuing a monthly news letter from its headquarters at 32, Egerton Gardens, S.W.3.

News Letter Number 1 reports the following officers elected at the first meeting of the Group on May 4: Brian Cummings, Chairman; Claire Grantham, Secretary and John Burrows, Treasurer. It also pays a tribute to the work of Patricia McNaught and members of the now merged Chelsea Group. Meetings will be held alternately at 5, Horbury Crescent, W.11 and 32 Egerton Gardens, S.W.3 and be announced in the Peace News Diary. SW London readers are invited to apply for copies of the News Letter at the latter address.

Lakeland Area Council

SYBIL MORRISON received a warm welcome from members of the Area when she attended the two sessions of the quarterly meeting on Saturday, May 28.

After business, had been concluded she talked about the campaign and the discussion and exchange of views became so absorbing that the secretary deliberately missed what might have been his last train home!

There was a lively exchange of views ranging from open-air meetings, posters and leaflets, women's particular part in the campaign, to the problem of toy weapons for children.

It was decided to have a public meeting in Kendal in October and plans were made for Lancaster and Kendal to get together for organising this piece of work.

There was a special expression of appreciation and gratitude to Sybil Morrison for her campaign column and also general appreciation of the new Peace News.

Pacifist Profiles

WHEN Dick Sheppard made his appeal for a nation-wide renunciation of war in 1934 he made it to men only. Very soon he realised how deeply women were implicated, and invited them also to take the pledge.

Sybil Morrison sent her postcard renouncing war by return of post, and must therefore be one of the first women members of the PPU.

Most people in the Peace Movement today know Sybil Morrison by repute, if not personally. But she was not always a well-known speaker and Chairman of the PPU Executive.

It may fairly be said that among those who have served their apprenticeship in our Union, among those to whom membership of the PPU is a vocational affair—she stands with those loyal undaunted people who began at the beginning, and year by year attained prestige in the movement by untiring study and practice.

She began by helping to form the Blackheath Group, for the simple and sufficient reason that she lived there, and served on the Group Committee until the war broke up her home, where so many of the Group meetings had been held, when she moved to Bayswater and later to Kent.

Blackheath started an open-air pitch as early as 1937, and except for illness or an occasional holiday, Sybil Morrison never missed a meeting. It was there she began to study the technique of open-air speaking, a study that has led to her being acclaimed one of the most eloquent and convincing speakers the Union can offer to the outside world.

During her work as London Area Representative on the National Council in 1938-39 she became also one of those who helped to keep Donald Soper's pitch open, on Tower Hill, when he was away ill for some



SYBIL MORRISON

months. This led to her own regular Monday meetings at that famous forum, which she continued right through the darkest days of the flying bomb menace, when the audience was hostile and difficult to hold, and when on one occasion the only upright figure was Sybil Morrison on the wall, as a flying bomb hurtled low over Tower Hill.

In August 1940, in the time of the great spy scare (a concomitant of every war) Sybil Morrison was arrested while speaking in Hyde Park and served a month in Holloway during the worst of the Blitz, when the terrible remoteness of prison life was intensified by the prisoners' ignorance of what was happening outside, and no one knew on whom the bombs had fallen.

From 1942-46 she was Business Manager of Peace News, and in 1948 became Campaign Organiser to the Peace Pledge Union, the position she fills today.

It is encouraging and heartening in these difficult days to reflect for a moment on "One who never turned his back, But marched breast forward"

Sybil Morrison was not a pacifist in World War I, though she drove an ambulance in common with many others whose urge was to save life. The reaction of ordinary kind-hearted Londoners to the terrible death in flames of Zeppelin crews decided her future attitude to war.

If all peace-lovers worked as steadfastly and truly as she did, and does—we might be nearer our goal of No More War.

WILLIAM LOCK

"THE old gentleman who was everybody's friend," was the tribute paid to William Daniel Lock by the Beckenham Journal which announced his death. He was 82.

For many years an active member of the Peace Pledge Union, this Beckenham Quaker, who retired during the slump, devoted much of his new leisure time to the unemployed.

Although he lost one eye during the war as the result of his home being bombed this injury failed to stop his many activities.

Ten Years Ago

From Peace News, June 9, 1939

Last Saturday over 218,000 lads took the first step to being converted into automata: men into machines. They registered under the Military Training Act in the way the Government desired.

Nearly 4,000 of their fellows stood firm for individual liberty of conscience; they registered as conscientious objectors.

I am sure pacifists everywhere were with the 1.7 per cent. 20-year-olds in thought on June 3, and as they made history by registering their conscientious objection to military service, we registered our eternal gratitude to them for the courageous stand they made for the pacifist faith.

These 3,775 boys have shown that despite never ceasing military propaganda they can keep their heads and dare to make a stand for peace and sanity in this hysterical fear-ridden world. They have kept faith with those conscientious objectors of 20 odd years ago and they mean to pass on the torch of pacifism to those whose turn for registration will come next.

—Winifred Cummings.

Notes for your Diary

As this is a free service, we reserve the right to select for publication notices sent in. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

1. Send notices to arrive not later than Monday.
2. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and secretary's address)—preferably in that order and style.

Today (Friday)

BIRMINGHAM: 7 p.m. Friends Meeting House, Bull Street; Dr. Alex Wood: "The Work of the National Peace Council"; Birmingham Peace Council.

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. 8 Endeavour Gardens; Hermann Peschmann BA. "Poetry and Anarchism." Herbert Read, Alex Comfort, etc.; Central London PPU Group.

Saturday, June 11

BILLERICAY: 4 p.m. Harrods Farm. Outwood Common Road; South Essex Area Conference; Rev. Lewis MacLachlan; FoR.

Sunday, June 12

FINSBURY PARK: 11 a.m. Open-air meeting; Stoke Newington PPU.

HYDE PARK: 7 p.m. Open-air meeting; Gwyneth Anderson; PPU.

Monday, June 13

BIRMINGHAM: 6.30; Bull Street Meeting House; Fellowship meeting; leader: Barbara Hare. Birmingham FoR.

Thursday, June 16

LONDON, W.C.2: 1 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields; open-air meeting; Sybil Morrison; PPU.

Friday, June 17

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. 8, Endeavour Gardens; Policy Meeting; Central London PPU Group.

Saturday, June 18

BIRMINGHAM: 3.30 to 6.30; Friends Meeting House, Bournville; "The FoR in Europe"; Elizabeth Monastier; FoR Area Conference.

IPSWICH: 3 p.m. Friends Meeting House, 39 Fenners Road, Area Conference Meeting; "World Unity: Our Immediate Task"; Hugh Faulkner; FoR.

Sunday, June 19

FINSBURY PARK: 11 a.m. Open-air meeting; Stoke Newington PPU.

Monday, June 20

LONDON, W.C.2: 7.30 p.m. St. Martin's School of Art, Charing Cross Road; "The Menace of War and the Weakness of Christendom"; Archdeacon Hartill (Anglican), Father Gille (Roman Catholic), Rev. Alan Balding (Free Church Minister); APF, FoR, Pax.

Wednesday, June 22

LONDON, S.W.3: 7.45 p.m. "World Government"; Harold Bidmead; SW London PPU.

Thursday, June 23

LONDON, W.C.2: 1 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields; open-air meeting; Sybil Morrison; PPU.

Essential Reading for Active Pacifists

THE PPU JOURNAL

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WEIGH HOUSE CHURCH, Duke Street, W.1 (Bond St. Tube), Sunday evenings at 7.15. The Gospel of Peace! Social hour follows.

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BOOK LOVERS visiting Paris call and see French friends at the Librairie Papeterie, 6 rue du Pre-aux-Clercs, Paris 7e.

BOOKS REVIEWED or advertised in Peace News and every other book or pamphlet now in print can best be obtained from the Friends Book Centre, Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

QUAKERISM. Information and Literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

NORTH LONDON readers are reminded that the Bookstall at Peace News office carries an interesting selection of topical books and pamphlets. Visitors to the office are always welcome; hours 9.30 to 6 o'clock, Wednesday evenings up to 9 o'clock. Our premises are above Fish and Cook, Stationers, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4.

PERSONAL

LONELY? JOIN Friendship Circle. Details 74d. Secretary, 34 Honeywell Road, London, S.W. 11.

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MISCELLANEOUS

WAR RESISTERS' International welcomes gifts of foreign stamps and undamaged air mail covers. Please send to WRI, Lansbury House, 88 Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex.

REGINALD BAILEY, assisted by Mrs. Bailey, Naturopath, Osteopath, Psychiatrist and Bates System for eyes. 184 Hoppers Road, Winchmore Hill, N.21. Palmers Green 7868. By appointment.

TRAVELLERS, SALESMEN are needed to sell Endeavour Cards. 1949 Christmas Range shortly available, a larger selection of attractive and distinctive designs at keen prices. Usual commission offered. Endeavour Cards help provide the funds to continue Peace News. Help and suggestions warmly welcomed. Please send details to the Manager, Endeavour Cards, c/o Peace News Ltd., 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

PEACE WORK is available for all volunteers at Peace News office. Day time and every Wednesday evening we shall be grateful for help. Write, phone, or just drop in, to Peace News (STA 2262), 3 Blackstock Rd. (above Fish & Cook stationers) Finsbury Park, N.4. (one minute from station).

Peace News is open for the expression of all points of view relevant to pacifism. Articles in it, whether signed or unsigned, do not necessarily represent the policy of the Peace Pledge Union, of which it is the weekly organ. Nor does the acceptance of advertisements imply any endorsement of, or PPU connexion with, the matter advertised.

Pacifism in Australia

12 ft. banners on the Yarra Bank

William F. Allen, Honorary Organiser of the Australian Federation of Resistance to War, Temperance Hall, Russell Street, Melbourne, C.I., recently sent the following report of their activities to the Peace-maker, our Australian contemporary:

THE Federation for Resistance to War has met on the Yarra Bank consistently each Sunday for nearly a year now, except when the weather prohibited.

Our audience has been growing, the largest being 250 before the speaker, as well as dozens of people passing by reading our large 4 ft. by 2 ft. slogans and our 12ft. banners.

Side-tracking by hecklers

Our messages are "Peace," "Anti-War," "Anti-Conscription," and we endeavour to keep strictly to these topics, though we often get side-tracked by such questions as: "Mr. Speaker, didn't diplomacy win the war for us?"

We have had the able assistance of three Methodist ministers, Rev. F. G. Hartley, of Murrumbidgee, blazing the trail, then Rev. Gallacher and the Rev. C. Wright. These men have many questions shot at them, especially in relation to the Bible, Christ's teachings and the Church's faults. But they can give good account of themselves. We trust more will follow. Our platform is open to all, both Catholic and Communist.

New NLP production

North London pacifists will be playing the leading roles in a performance of "Murder in the Cathedral" by the North London Players at Dalston County School on Saturday, June 18 at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are obtainable from Miss Nellie Harby, 74 Ingleton Road, N.18, price 4s., 3s., and 2s. all reserved.

Channel Tunnel again!

PROTESTS AGAINST WAR OFFICE VETO

A LEADING article in The Times recently drew attention to a motion signed by 220 MPs of all parties urging the Government to re-examine the possibilities of securing European co-operation in a Channel Tunnel project.

The decision, however, as to whether a Tunnel shall be constructed or not rests with the War Office who fifteen times in the past seventy years have prevented the furtherance of this project.

The recent Press controversy recalled the innumerable advantages of a tunnel, but with a renewed emphasis upon its enormous value to the tourist traffic.

Of this by no means the least important aspect is that it would open up Europe for the youth of Britain by providing inexpensive cycling holidays on the Continent.

The infinitesimal fraction

And it could be built for a fraction of the amount which Britain and France will spend on war preparations during the time needed for its construction.

Between them Britain and France will spend £1,410 millions on war preparation this year. The cost of the tunnel, which would take eight years to build, is estimated at £70 million, or .00625 of eight years' joint military expenditure.

Christopher Shawcross, MP (Lab., Widnes), Chairman of the Channel Tunnel Parliamentary Committee, writing in The Times of June 3 of "the danger to security" which the War Office claim that the tunnel would represent, put forward an argument seldom proffered by politicians or service-men:

"As to any possible future war (with atomic bombs and so forth) the first task is surely to prevent such a major disaster."

"Panicky" Britain

In another letter Andre Basdevant of the Channel Tunnel Committee of the Association France-Grande Bretagne writes from Paris deploring Britain's "panicky" attitude.

"Let it be understood," he writes, "that if, one day, this plan is carried out, a fear frequently expressed that 'fifth columnists' may impair the safety of Britain by occupying the mouth of the tunnel would be disposed of by the scheme that such a tunnel will have, not one, but several mouths on both sides of the Channel, and that the distance between mouths may be many miles. This may make the protection the easier in case of enemy parachute troops dropped on British soil. . . . The many advantages (already officially emphasised) of such a tunnel are so much more important than military considerations against the scheme."

One of Brighton's Conservative MPs, William Teeling, writes in a third letter of the risks from fifth columnists and parachute troops:

"Does not the same danger exist on airfields? Are we not to have modern airfields for fear that they should be captured? Does all this outweigh the obvious advantages in peace-time, not even discussed in your leading article?"

"Only 1 per cent. of the tourist traffic between France and Belgium comes to Britain. . . ."

Americans want it

He adds that there is a strong drive for the tunnel among Americans, who wish to spend their dollars in Britain as well as on the Continent, without the often serious discomforts of the sea crossing.

"American money might well be used for this purpose," he says.

Letters to other Editors

MR. A. J. CUMMINGS tells us (News Chronicle, April 22) that "one of the many secrets the Russians seek jealously to guard is the size of their armed forces."

But have we not our iron curtain as well as the Russians? What does Mr. Cummings know about our armed power? How much are we MPs allowed to know?

I asked a question a fortnight ago about the cost of one of the latest type of fast bombers. I was told by the Minister of Supply that "it was not the practice to supply such information."

How many divisions could we send to Europe? Does Mr. Cummings know? Does he know if we have the atom bomb? Does he know what is being done with the £8,000,000 we are spending on research for the Navy?

EMRYS HUGHES

Lochnorris, Cumnock, Ayrshire.
News Chronicle, May 3, 1949

I TEACH in a secondary modern school and one day read a poem about the joys of flying, to a class of 11-year-olds. This led to a discussion about the use of

Under this heading we propose to give from time to time excerpts from letters to editors of other journals which we believe would be of interest to Peace News readers.

We cordially invite cuttings, especially from the local Press for inclusion. Each cutting should bear the name of the periodical from which it was taken, together with the date of publication.

aeroplanes in war, and there ensued the following discussion:

Me: Well, if so many of you think there is going to be another war, which countries are going to fight each other?

Pupil (pat): Russia against all the countries in the Atlantic Pact.

Me: Oh? Why should they all want to fight Russia?

Pupil: Because Russia is trying to make all the other countries go Communist, and if they won't Russia will fight them till they do, and then everyone who doesn't agree will go to prison and . . .

Me (interrupting): But that's nonsense! Chorus: But that's what Miss X told us this morning in Current Affairs!

And the Tories gnash their teeth about Communist propaganda in the schools! C.M.

The Daily Worker, April 30, 1949.

THE Daily Herald is right to question the blatant publicity methods the Church is using to draw attention to the Mission to London—sky-writing aeroplanes making crosses in the sky, and all that sort of thing.

What moral victory was ever won by using material weapons?

The man who won probably the greatest moral victory of modern times was Gandhi. He did it by devoting his life to a single-minded preaching of love for mankind. No material power, no expensive tricks or propaganda, could overcome his integrity.

Faced with the greatest problem of today, the atom bomb, the Church hesitated and temporised. It failed to give a lead to the world.

If the bishops had declared flatly that any use of the bomb, in any circumstances, was abhorrent to Christianity; and if the Church were today leading a campaign to free the world from this terrible threat, then the churches would be filled, without need for boosting.

You would get better results, Dr. Wand, from an ideal than from a slogan.

J. ROGERS

Enfield, Middlesex.

The Daily Herald, May 20, 1949.

THE following facts seem to indicate that it was a tragic blunder to send the Amethyst up the Yangtze river.

For some years now a group of conscientious objectors have been working behind both the Communist and Nationalist lines on relief work. They have passed through the lines in unarmed lorries laden with petrol, food and medical supplies.

One group of COs in Chungmou has seen the town alternately occupied by Nationalists and Communists and yet have managed to persuade the respective commanders to leave the relief unit's army-type trucks and stores unmolested and intact.

Surely if the British and U.S. Governments had released a few of the COs at present imprisoned in Britain and the U.S. and flown them out to China they could have driven the necessary supplies up to Nanking under the Quaker emblem.

The international of armaments and war has caused British sailors to be victims of American munitions fired by Communists. The war resisters' international has shown that unarmed men of good will, pledged not to handle arms, can allay suspicion and walk unafraid.

HUGH H. BROCK

79 Lordship Park, London, N.16.
British Weekly, May 12, 1949.

I WAS delighted to read in your issue recently of a Swindon youth of 18 years, applying to Judge K. Jenkins Court at Bristol, as a conscientious objector. I congratulate him for his witness.

To my mind the passing of the Conscientious Objectors Act has made a great contribution to Christianity, enabling people to make their appeal in court for an exemption certificate which is protected by law.

G. T. FOYLE

5 Jolliffe Street, Swindon.

Swindon Evening Advertiser, April 12, 1949.

Sybil Morrison's

CAMPAIGN COLUMN

As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.
—St. Luke VI, 31.

The senior officers of the Service (RAF) . . . know that under modern conditions no battle fought over Britain could now save us, and that our future depends on our ability to defend ourselves over, not our own, but, as in 1943 and 1944, our enemy's industrial cities.

—Arthur Bryant, Sunday Times, Whit-Sunday, 1949.

Far more important to us than the protection of London from terror bombing was the functioning of airfields and air squadrons. We never thought of the struggle in terms of defence of London or any other place.

—Winston Churchill, The Second World War, Vol. II.

AT last all disguise is thrown aside and the public are learning the truth, the truth that Baldwin told a long time ago, when he said that there is no defence against the bombing aeroplane but to kill more of the enemy's women and children more quickly than they can kill yours.

It is well that ordinary people should come to realise that in modern war there is, in fact, no such thing as defence and that if war comes there is no choice but to do to the enemy what they deplore as the utmost barbarism in others, the killing and maiming of completely innocent and helpless human beings.

For in the bombing of industrial cities, homes as well as factories are destroyed, hospitals as well as railway yards are blown to pieces, flesh and bones as well as machinery crash to their end in flames.

Let us not be deceived, and let us not allow others to be deceived; this is what is meant by defending ourselves "over our enemy's industrial cities." The whole concentration of our forces is upon other cities while our own remain open to precisely the same horror.

It is not our business to frighten people; everyone is afraid of high explosive except the totally stupid or the totally unimaginative; but it is our business to show the moral issue involved in making this terrible choice of evil.

They must face the truth

Those who hold that war-preparation is essential to save the peace of the world, and who maintain that in certain circumstances war is justifiable must be faced with what it is that they are choosing. They are choosing to do to others what they abominate and dread when it is done to themselves. Under no circumstances can this be justifiable. We must wrap the terrible truth from its grand disguise; we must remove the dark glasses of deception from people's eyes.

During the summer months there will be displays of military might, such as the Royal Tournament in London, and parades and tattoo all over the country. There is also to be a mock air battle over Great Britain, starting on June 25.

This is the psychological moment when we must devote ourselves to facing ordinary people with the truth about modern warfare and with the real issues which are involved.

There is a special poster in preparation and also a special leaflet for distribution, but these will be useless without the sacrifice and determination of all PPU members.

Volunteers, please!

More volunteers are wanted to distribute leaflets outside the Royal Tournament at Olympia from June 16 to July 2 (except Sundays) twice daily from 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. and from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Names and addresses together with the dates and times when volunteers could be available should be sent to me at Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1 when a supply of leaflets will be sent by return of post.

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